AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 and 24-26 are pending in the instant application. Claims 24 and 26 have been amended. The Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following amendments reflected in the listing of claims.

Listing of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for providing load balancing in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the method comprising:

receiving at least one polling message from an access device by at least one of a plurality of access points;

responsive to said at least one polling message, determining a load on each one of said plurality of access points; and

sending said determined load of said each one of said plurality of access points to said access device.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising interpreting said at least one polling message by at least one of said plurality of access points, which is located in an operating range of said access device.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, comprising selecting an access point from said plurality of access points having a least load.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, comprising selecting said access point having a least load by said access device to provide service.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising:

sending said received at least one polling message from said at least one of a plurality of access points to a switch using a messaging protocol message; and

receiving said at least one polling message by said switch.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, comprising determining at least a load on at least a portion of said plurality of access points.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, comprising sending information corresponding to said determined load to at least a portion of said plurality of access points using a messaging protocol message.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein comprising redistributing a load on said at least a portion of said plurality of access points.

9. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having at least one code section for providing load management in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the at least one code section executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps comprising:

receiving at least one polling message from an access device by at least one of a plurality of access points;

responsive to said at least one polling message, determining a load on each one of said plurality of access points; and

sending said determined load of said each one of said plurality of access points to said access device.

10. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 9, comprising code for interpreting said at least one polling message by at least one of said plurality of access points, which is located in an operating range of said access device.

11. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 10, comprising code for selecting an access point from said plurality of access points having a least load.

12. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising code for selecting said access point having a least load by said access device to provide service.

13. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 9, comprising code for:

sending said received at least one polling message from said at least one of a plurality of access points to a switch using a messaging protocol message; and

receiving said at least one polling message by said switch.

14. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 10, comprising code for determining at least a load on at least a portion of said plurality of access points.

15. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 14, comprising code for sending information corresponding to said

determined load to at least a portion of said plurality of access points using a messaging protocol message.

16. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 15, comprising code for redistributing a load on said at least a portion of said plurality of access points.

17. (Previously Presented) A system for providing network management in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the system comprising:

at least one receiver of at least one of a plurality of access points, adapted to receive at least one polling message from an access device;

at least one controller adapted to determine a load on each one of said plurality of access points in response to said at least one polling message; and

at least one transmitter adapted to send said determined load of said each one of said plurality of access points to said access device.

18. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said at least one controller is adapted to interpret said at least one polling message, said at least one controller being associated with at least one of said plurality of access points that is located in an operating range of said access device.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 18, wherein said at least one controller is adapted to select an access point from said plurality of access points having a least load.

20. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one controller is adapted to select said access point having a least load by said access device to provide service.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 17, wherein said at least one transmitter is adapted to send said received at least one polling message from said at least one of a plurality of access points to a switch using a messaging protocol message.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one receiver is adapted to receive said at least one polling message by said switch.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[23]]17, wherein said at least one controller is adapted to send information corresponding to said

determined load to at least a portion of said plurality of access points using a messaging protocol message.

25. (Original) The system according to claim 24, wherein said at least one controller is adapted to redistribute a load on said at least a portion of said plurality of access points.

26. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[23]]17, wherein said at least one controller is one or more of: a bandwidth management controller, a quality of service controller, a load balancing controller, a session controller and a network management controller.